

*Meeting Minutes*  
**COMMUNICATIONS ACCESS COUNCIL**  
December 15, 2009  
DCFS – West Neighborhood Care Center  
6171 W. Charleston Blvd. #8  
Las Vegas, NV

**ROLL CALL:**

**Members:** Betty Hammond, Jana Spoor, Dennis Granata, Karen Pearl, Kim Ryan (interpreting).

**Absent:** Linda Raymond, Theresa Piccinini, Denise Phipps, Kim Holloway

**Staff:** Laura Rich

**Interpreters:** Kim Ryan, Meredith Aurs

**CART:** April Chandler

**Guests:** Mark Finn, David Strom

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Jana Spoor, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:45 pm. Introductions were made by all present and it was established that a quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

*A motion to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2009 meeting was offered by Ms. Pearl, seconded by Ms. Hammond and unanimously approved.*

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

The Vice Chairman reported on the Hearing Aid laws that have passed in other states. It was suggested that the members research this topic prior to the next meeting and determined that discussion would be postponed until that time.

**OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES STAFF REPORT:**

Ms. Hammond informed the council that the office is currently going through the request for proposals (RFP) process. There have been three responders and an evaluation team has been selected to review and score the applications. The team is scheduled to meet on January 6<sup>th</sup> to determine which agency or agencies will be chosen to provide advocacy and equipment in Nevada. Ms. Hammond will keep the council updated via email once a decision has been made and the agencies have been notified.

Ms. Hammond also informed the council on the new legislation that makes the CAC a subcommittee of the Nevada Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities. While this creates no changes in the role of the CAC, the Commission offers additional influence for the support and passage of legislation significant to the CAC. Ms. Hammond offered to be the CAC representative attending and providing status reports at the meetings.

Ms. Hammond also provided the members with a copy of the council's bylaws, indicating that she had eliminated language regarding the involvement of the CAC in the grievance procedure of CART providers and interpreters. She has also made some modifications to reflect the changes

created by the merger of Aging and Disability Services. The changes will need to be approved at the next council meeting.

Ms. Hammond reported to the council that the Health Division has sponsored the production of an emergency notification DVD in ASL. She has been working with the Nevada Broadcasters Association for this in an effort to further inform the deaf community about disaster preparedness.

**RELAY NEVADA REPORT:**

Mr. Strom reported to the council that TRS billable minutes have experienced a significant decline and have not yet begun to demonstrate any sign of leveling off. Conversely, Captel billable minutes have risen considerably but there is an indication that the numbers are beginning to flatline. Captel is expected to overtake TRS and quickly become the predominant service.

Mr. Strom also displayed the trend showing the slight drop in the month to month total minutes over the course of a nearly two years. He indicated that there should actually be a rise and the drop could illustrate the need for additional marketing.

**NEVADA ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEAF (NVAD) REPORT:**

Ms. Piccini was unable to attend the council meeting, but, Ms. Spoor informed the council on NVAD's recent activities. Due to the separation of NVAD and the DHHARC, the group is now focusing on changing their bylaws to reflect those changes.

**REPORT ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CART/INTERPRETER REGULATIONS:**

Ms. Holloway was unable to attend the council meeting. Instead Ms. Hammond reported on some of the proposed changes to the interpreter portion of the regulations. The office is preparing to go to workshop and hearings in order to elicit feedback from the public and committee.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Finn discussed his concerns regarding the hard of hearing population and ensuring they are not overlooked. Due to their expertise, Mr. Finn also suggested the involvement of AG Bell in any future hearing aid legislation within the state.

Mr. Strom continued his presentation, which included information regarding Sprint's 4G network, WiMax and wireless options.

**SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next meeting will be decided via email.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.